

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/796,572

Examiner

Thomas J. Williams

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to October 6, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 8-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Acknowledgment is made in the receipt the amendment filed July 28, 2005 and the supplemental amendment filed October 6, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: with regards to claims 1, 8 and 14 the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious a rotary steering damper having an actuator secured to a lower surface of the housing extension, the lower surface extending in a direction normal to an axis of the damper shaft; with regards to claims 5 and 12, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious a rotary steering damper comprising a linkage member comprising dual pivot connections, and a bifurcated steering torque transfer arm connecting the linkage member and the damper shaft of the steering damper; with regards to claim 15, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious a steering damper comprising a linkage connecting the damper shaft to the steering system side, wherein the linkage includes a steering torque transfer arm and a link member, and wherein a first end of the steering torque transfer arm is fixed to the damper shaft, a second end of the steering torque transfer arm is rotatably attached to a first end of the link member, and a second end of the link member is rotatably attached to the top bridge; with regards to claim 6, upon further consideration it is agreed that the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious a rotary steering damper comprising a mechanical pressure control valve in parallel with an electric pressure control valve, wherein a maximum opening pressure of the electric pressure control

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valve is set such that a lower limit value to a dispersion thereof is lower than an upper limit value to a dispersion of an opening pressure of the mechanical pressure control valve.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Williams whose telephone number is 571-272-7128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James McClellan, can be reached at 571-272-6786. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-6584.

THOMAS WILLIAMS
PATENT EXAMINER

TJW

October 12, 2005

Thomas Williams

10-12-05

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